


point 3

■ AUGUST 2004

The magazine of  **TOC H**

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Peggy and Audrey share wartime memories

Two women who have given years of service to Toc H are profiled here.

Audrey Smith is celebrating her diamond anniversary with Toc H. She's 81 and chairman of the new Cleveland branch.

Peggy Crossland has many happy memories of Toc H since she became aware of it in Singapore in 1945 - and harrowing memories of the Japanese war trials she subsequently witnessed.

She is secretary of the Yorkshire Pennine Branch.

Both women, stalwarts of our organisation, share their stories here with Point 3 readers:



Audrey Smith - celebrating her diamond anniversary with Toc H.



Peggy Crossland - joined Toc H twice.

I became a member of Toc H in April 1944 when I was in the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS), stationed at Chilwell Depot, Beeston near Nottingham. I worked shifts and spent a lot of time visiting the Toc H canteen in Beeston where I helped out in the kitchen. After a while I was asked by one of the members if I would like to attend their meetings.

I agreed, and at the first meeting thought I had become involved in a secret society as the chairman said we would "take light" and everyone stood up in the room and we turned off the lights and a taper on a stand was lit and some words spoken. I found out later it was a rushlight. The light was eventually extinguished and the room lights put back on. No explanation was given and that was when I learned that an explanation should always be given for the Ceremony of Light if strangers are present.

I continued to attend their meetings when I could and also helped out in the kitchen and eventually was asked if I would like to become a member, which I did. I was demobbed in July 1946 and came home to Redcar. My father told someone at work that I had joined Toc H and his friend's daughter was also a member in Redcar, so I joined them. In November they needed a new secretary - you can guess the rest, young, just the job.

Since then I have held various offices, and now I am Chairman of the new

Cleveland Branch at 81 years old!

It has been a very interesting time with Toc H and I have met many people, been on projects, and been to Poperinge a few times. I have worked with very nice staff, for example Francis Beeton, Charles Young, Adrian Dudman, and thoroughly enjoyed my time with Toc H.

It can truthfully be said serving baked beans on toast brought me into Toc H!

Audrey Smith, Redcar, Cleveland

I first came across Toc H when I was in the WAAF in 1945 stationed in Singapore shortly after the Japanese had surrendered. My job was equipment accounts which included stocktaking and storage of goods handed over by the custodian of enemy property, most of which had been looted from the Chinese population in Singapore.

I had heard of Toc H and learnt that my sergeant was a member and I asked about the Toc H lamp. I was told that the Toc H lamp was "burning more brightly than you realise" and I could help if I liked. I was asked if I would collect used magazines for the leper colony, as in those days leprosy was a very prevalent disease and those who suffered from it were very much isolated.

During this time I met John Wilson who had been the Bishop of Singapore during the Japanese occupation and

had suffered horribly because he would not renounce his faith and had spent most of his time in "the cage". When the occupation had finished, we were allowed to sit in the public gallery at the Japanese war trials and heard chilling evidence from prisoners who had been mistreated.

I remember vividly an Australian nurse in the witness stand who gave her age as 38 but had the appearance of a 90-year-old. I too had a Chinese houseboy who had been very badly treated and had many scars to show for it.

When the war ended, I came back home to Garforth and tried to settle back into civilian life, work etc. I was approached by the rector of a local church to deliver church magazines in the area and I found out he was a member of Toc H. Soon after that, a new branch opened at Garforth and I was invited to be reinitiated as a member although I had joined in Singapore.

This was a memorable experience. At that time you were required to serve a six-month probationary period before you could join Toc H and you were fined sixpence if you weren't wearing your badge at a meeting!

I have many happy memories of my time with Toc H and have been called on to help out in some unusual ways, from a house removal in Wakefield using a handcart, to babysitting when required - and I haven't finished yet!

Peggy Crossland, Garforth, Leeds

Generation gap closes as new concert hall opens



Harry Patch and Yasmine Louagie jointly opened the concert hall.

Soldier Harry Patch first visited Talbot House, Poperinge, when he was 17. Now aged 106, he was there again in May to cut the tape at the official opening of the centre's newly-refurbished concert hall.

Also performing the opening ceremony was ten-year-old Yasmine Louagie, the daughter of Jan Louagie, secretary of the Talbot House Association, and Katrien, who is secretary to the Friends of Talbot House. Also taking part in the ceremony was Noel Cornick, President of the Talbot House Association.

The concert hall, with its state-of-the-art exhibition of life behind the lines in the First World War, was formally opened in front of a large gathering at an event held to symbolise the way in which Talbot House looks back to its wartime past and forward to its role as a promoter of peace and reconciliation in the 21st century.

When Talbot House, Poperinge, was eventually bought by Lord Wakefield for Toc H in 1929, the hopstore was not included in the sale and the building fell into disrepair. But in 1996 Toc H was given the opportunity to acquire the hopstore, and in 1998 it was listed as a monument.

It was decided to renovate it, including the old concert hall, to relieve the pressures on Talbot House itself and improve facilities for visitors. Work began on the renovation project in January last year.

It includes restoration of the floors and ceilings, the oast house, the hop-lifting mechanism and the roof. The original concert hall will be developed into a contemporary meeting place where the emphasis will be on peace and reconciliation. The project also involves the renovation of the visitors' centre, and work on a seminary, a well-equipped records department and a museum shop.



The stunningly refurbished concert hall at Poperinge.

Photos by Frank Whiteman.

Inspiring day launches leadership programme

Toc H is developing and delivering a programme in community leadership across the nine English regions commissioned by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

Led by Carol Tarvet, community leadership/development training officer, delegates from Toc H met at a special conference to consider ways to begin helping and inspiring the people who will undertake the programme.

Training

Candidates will receive training on Toc H, its history, aims and objectives, policies and procedures as well as the eight modules of the course - understanding community leadership, business communication, understanding groups and teams, creating working partnerships, understanding people management, developing community action, community capacity building, and managing volunteers.

The three-year programme, which is being piloted in three areas, was developed after a survey conducted by Carol asking why candidates wanted to take the programme, what they thought a good community leader could achieve, and the skills they might need.

The experience of the 100-plus respondents ranged from working as voluntary health advisers to arranging bingo and trips out, helping those with mental health problems, and chairing or sitting on committees. They identified an intriguing range of skills existing in Toc H including project management and problem analysis, to engineering and gardening. One commented: "The best of luck with all your work - if I was younger I would certainly do more."

The conference also heard from Rodney Stares of the Community Leadership Foundation. He outlined a programme run in Lothian from



Carol Tarvet, who led the programme

1990 to 1997 which covered a region of more than 800,000 people and many hundreds of community groups. Its aim was to increase the ability of the poorest communities to initiate and manage change, rather than being passive recipients.

It was set up because there was a sense that effective local leadership was needed in these communities, but there were few local people taking on and staying in the role of leaders. It was also recognised that community "activists" and volunteers were the last to receive training, and that what was provided was often not appropriate.

The Lothian project introduced new forms of training which focused on the motivation to underpin effectiveness, and the inter-personal skills needed to motivate others. It did not attempt to provide more usual "how-to" or "where-to" type of information.

Activists

The number of community activists grew and paid staff were able to move into higher-level support roles, freeing up opportunities for activists; groups became more effective and sustainable; and inter-personal skills training for the community sector became far more available.

Carol would like to invite applicants for volunteer/trainers to deliver the programme in nine English regions. Anyone interested should ring 0161 797 9116. Anyone interested in the community leadership programme should also ring Carol on that number.

Cooking up fun and food

A multi-cultural cooking project at the Toc H Park Talbot Centre in Bradford is proving to be a tasty attraction as women from diverse cultural backgrounds and races come together and are encouraged to share their favourite recipes.

They take it in turns each week to demonstrate how they make it "just so" - their term for the practical advice which they consider much more fun and easier to learn than a standard written recipe.

The project was founded by Sure Start - the Government-run initiative which involves local people and aims to improve the life of young children - to provide a regular avenue for women to come together and share their experiences and knowledge in a fun and safe environment.

The women-only group meets on Thursdays and costs just £1 a meeting, which goes towards costs. A free crèche is also provided.

As the group is very culturally mixed, the recipes come from all over the world and give members a chance to sample and cook with foods they may never have usually considered.

All cultural differences are catered for. For example, all meat is Halal so it can be shared by everyone.

As well as adding to their gastronomic repertoire the women get a chance to speak openly about issues relating to themselves and their lives.

The group has already produced its first recipe book.

Thanks for all your memories — now you can read the book

Thanks for the memories - that's the message to the many people who have responded to appeals in Point 3 for recollections of Dor Knap, the former Toc H training centre in Broadway, in the beautiful Cotswold countryside.

Requests for information and photographs have been so successful (more than 50 people responded to the first Point 3 article last September) that a book chronicling 20 years of Toc H history is being planned.

The idea began when 86-year-old Mrs Priscilla Joseph of Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, decided to collect reminiscences of Dor Knap, where she lived before it was rented, in 1959, by Toc H as a training and conference centre. Her neighbours Lionel and Margaret Powell helped her and, as the appeal grew, are involved with the book project.

Lionel says: "The centre was a magic mixture of atmosphere, scenery, fellowship, big personalities, humour and wholesome enjoyment. Everyone who visited the place left their own personal contribution of love and their maintenance of the building.

But help is needed with the cost of producing the book, proceeds from which will go towards Toc H youth projects. Anyone who can help is asked to make a donation. Cheques, payable to "Dor Knap Account" can be sent to the HSBC Bank (Branch code 40.43.42, account number 61231065).

Anyone with further information or photographs should send it to Ray Fabes, 15 Fern Close, Thurnby, Leics LE7 9QJ Tel: 01162 433761 or email rfabes@dmu.ac.uk A new website with information about Dor Knap is also available at <http://www.encill.abelalways.co.uk/dorknap/>

The book will probably be priced between £5 and £10. It would be helpful to know how many copies are needed, so to reserve yours, please write to: Lionel Powell, "Sharen", Downtown Road, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire GL10 2AX, tel: 01453 828286.

- Dor Knap is now a luxurious private house, recently on the market for £1.75million.



Mellow Cotswold stone is part of the charm of the beautiful building.



Volunteers hard at work with Dor Knap path restoration.



Many Toc H members will have memories of this peaceful chapel.



A bell and a lamp - combining to welcome visitors to Dor Knap.



Take off - as the KK club launches a multi-coloured parachute.



Fun at the painting session for (from the left) Katie Shropshall, Dawn Vigers and Angela Davis.



Watering the plants are (from the left) Lesley Bennett, Barbara Rafferty and Helen Boyd.



Planning activities: Kerry Brewer (club co-ordinator), Lynn Weaver (club manager), Paul Ray, Jenni Houghton and Nikki Eaborn.

Warm welcome for St Francis

A new addition to the *inTOUCH* programme is the Toc H Saint Francis Centre in the Midlands, a community-based project offering invaluable help for families in the area. Following its welcome to the Toc H fold, 22 staff attended an induction day which provided an opportunity to meet Central Services staff and to learn about Toc H's history and achievements.

As the photographs on these pages show, the induction day was an enjoyable affair.

No children were at the induction day, of course, but on a normal schoolday up to 25 children, aged between four and 12 are involved in the before-school and after-school clubs enjoying structured activities.

Up to 50 children attend the nursery which is open from 7.45am to 6.00pm, 52 weeks of the year, offering a structured and varied routine of daily activities. A number of places are funded through the Early Years Partnership where a child or family has specific needs, or by colleges so that parents can return to education and training. Other children who attend are funded by the Nursery Education Grant or working parents.

In addition community groups use the centre, including the Golden Valley Club who managed their regular bingo session on the staff induction day, and the twice-weekly parents and toddler meetings.

Officer-in-charge Tracy Goodhead said: "We feel the induction day was as successful as we hoped it would be. In addition to personnel matters, it gave staff a chance to reflect on the community-involvement of Toc H and how we can combine to be of service to the community. It was also a most enjoyable day."



Lucky numbers - the Golden Valley Club, a community group, enjoying a

e to Toc H Centre



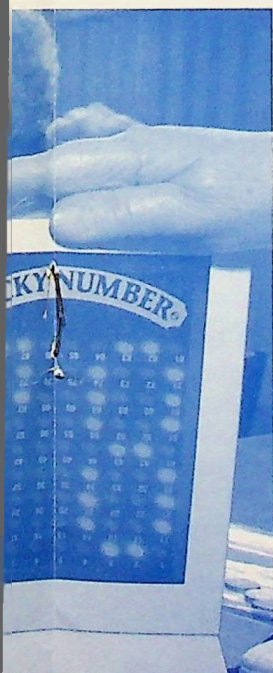
Staff pose for a picture on the slide.



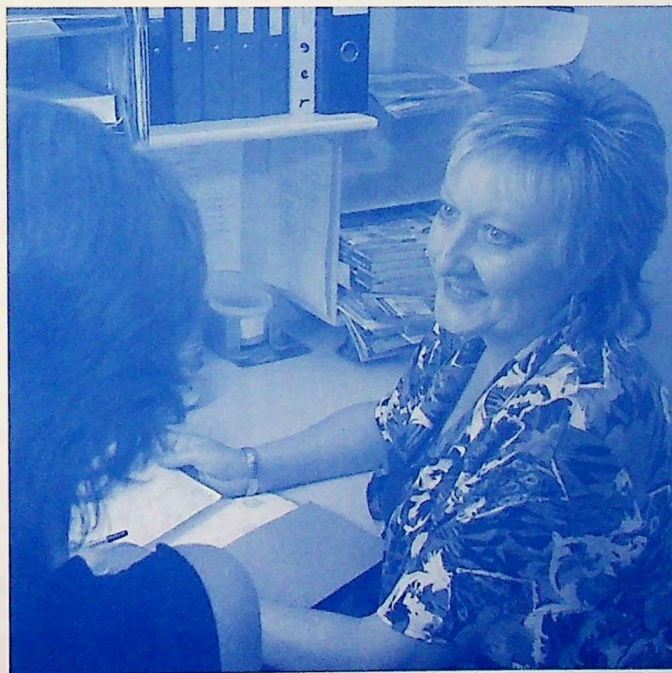
Reading corner - (from the left) Syreeta McCann, Jackie Mailin and Clare Hulbert.



Drinks almost ready - in the kitchen, where staff prepare breakfasts, lunches and teas for the nursery and out-of-school children's groups are (from the left) Anna Woodhouse, Sandra Williams and Betty Maloney.



a game of bingo.



Down to the office work - Tracy Goodhead and Carole Donnelly

Community focus of John's new venture

Former Toc H Operations Director John Dunwell has set up a new community-focused business - the Bedale Copy Shop - in North Yorkshire.

John, who left Toc H earlier this year after working for the organisation since 1987, is bringing his expertise gained from 20 years in the voluntary and statutory sectors to a business which will be run on the principles of social enterprise. It is hoped to help voluntary and community groups who will get discounted prices.

Range

John, who started the business in April, is already looking for bigger premises, and is in the process of renovating a former saddlery next door.

The shop offers a wide range of print and communication services, including photocopying, laminating, binding, personalised printing onto T-shirts, mugs, badges and other products; business cards, and stationery. John and his colleagues can also offer desktop publishing to design flyers, posters, brochures, reports and tickets.

A feature of the business of particular interest to community groups is the regular "workshops" programme offering print media and communication skills.

Kira lends a hand

German student Kira Petermann spent four weeks away from her university studies in Cologne to work as a volunteer with Toc H at the John Scurr Centre in East London. Kira, 23, has been involved in many aspects of Toc H work there, including outreach projects, helping in the crèche and office administration.

She has previously spent time in England, working for the disability organisation Scope. Kira said: "I have spent a very worthwhile and enjoyable time here and have been very interested to learn more about the work done by Toc H."

When caring is a family affair

For the past two years, the Toc H inTOuCH project in Winsford, Cheshire, has been supporting and delivering services for families who have a child or a young person with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

The initiative began with the formation of a strategy group involving representatives of social services, youth services, education, health, parents, young people and voluntary organisations.

The group identified a significant lack of services for children with ADHD and associated disorders, and it was agreed to start addressing their needs and to support families in a way which would be both beneficial and practical. The work is going from strength to strength.

An after-school club is to be set up in Winsford as an additional service to the summer schemes which have been running for three years. A grant of £20,000 from the New Opportunities Fund will allow Toc H to go ahead with the important work, supported by grants from The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, and other trusts and small grants locally.

Toc H development officer Chris Duncan said: "It's hard for people with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity

Disorder to concentrate. A lot of young people can't cope with new situations that make them feel anxious."

Young people with ADHD are often unable to cope in social settings and need to have structured activities to help them cope. Sometimes their frustration makes them lash out and their behaviour is misinterpreted as just being "bad" or "naughty" and their condition is left undiagnosed.

Because of their behaviour, sufferers are often excluded from mainstream activities, making it even harder for their families to cope.

The after-school club had its beginnings in summer camps two years ago which allowed parents some respite. The scheme operated in both Winsford and Northwich and about 40 families from both towns benefited.

Chris said: "We started thinking what we could be offering in between the summer holidays and this led to our securing the funding for the after-school club." Toc H hope the money will also help them fund the popular summer camps

- As reported in the last edition of Point 3, an ADHD Family Support Group is now operating in Tunbridge Wells.

Raising the roof at Leigh

When Leigh Toc H's centre fell into disrepair over recent years, it wasn't possible to serve the local community as well as had been intended.

But major works - including fitting a new roof and fascias to the main building, rewiring, installing shower facilities and a complete refurbishment of the kitchen - have been carried out.

Users

Francis Braganza, National Development Officer Talbot Centres, says: "I would like to thank Councillors Kevin Anderson and John O'Brien for all the help, support and assistance they have given me and Toc H and without whose help the major capital works would not have been possible.

"Thanks also to the user groups' representatives for sticking with us through thick and thin.

"Thanks also to officers of the council from various departments ranging from economic regeneration, environmental health and the township officers for their unstinting help and support."

Leigh Toc H are to carry out a community consultation exercise in the area to see how they can improve their service to the local community.

Volunteers

Toc H's history in Leigh dates back to the 1930s and the present building at Siddow Common was completed in 1979 - a unique achievement in that it was built mainly by volunteers working with Toc H members.

Francis says: "It has given me great pleasure to watch local groups use the building and begin to develop and thrive. Hope Carr Morris Dance Troupe and Siddow Common football team have performed with great success and the youth club provides an invaluable service to the youth of the estate and continues to grow. The performance given by Will Travis's drama group was of the highest standards of professionalism and showed what wonderful local talent there is."

Obituaries

John Allsop
East of England

Harold F S Bateman
Hayes

James Bentley
Buckley

Robert Brown
Wallasey

Archibald C Campbell
Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay

Frederick C Dobbs
Broughton Astley

Peter East
London District Branch

David Evans
Dolgellau (M)

Beryl M Gittings
Newport (W)

Raymond Goodway
Avon District Branch

Janet Jones
Sheaf (Sheffield)

Vera Little
South East

Clifford G Martin
East Midlands

Michael C Sanders
East of England

Winifred G Talbot
Downend (W)

Kathleen Walker
Greenbank

Horace R Weaver
Tetbury (M)

Tubby Clayton, 1926: 'Give what your inner light dictates and let each one who makes a will see to it that one final gift is thereby made to the work which enshrines the spirit of those who gave all.'

Final gift which helps our light continue to shine for those in need

Toc H is a legacy organisation. It is a gift from past members, volunteers, branches, supporters and staff, to the future. This legacy is made up of our continuing and growing membership, our TalbotCentres, and inTOUCH projects, and a committed and enthusiastic staff team.

As our CD Rom display in Talbot House reminds us, it is not only Toc H itself which is the legacy but the many organisations, from the Blood Transfusion Service to the YHA, that represent the legacy of Toc H not only to our current membership and staff, but to society generally.

As I write we have heard news that we have received another much more specific monetary legacy, in excess of £100,000, from a member in the West Midlands.

Needless to say we are always enormously grateful when a legacy of this size is received. It is a sign that the donor has reflected on the continuing value of Toc H both to society at large as well as the individual benefit they have received from their membership of Toc H.

Toc H is one of those mysterious organisations that exist purely for the sake of those individuals who are not its members. But that is not to say that members do not gain from their involvement; alongside service and hospitality many branches and projects continue to offer the incalculable benefit of continuing in fellowship with the wider membership.

This generous legacy has no strings attached other than a desire that it should be used for the general benefit of Toc H in the Midlands and of course this request, as expressed by the donor through their executor, will be completely honoured by Toc H as the beneficiary of their generosity and foresight.

Some while ago Betty Cornick, a former member of Central Council and a Toc H member for over 50 years who still feels as enthusiastic about it now as she did when she was first initiated into membership, wrote to our Toc H Builders as follows:

‘Who couldn't feel enthusiastic about an organisation which calls us all "to love widely, to build bravely, to think fairly and to witness humbly" - it results in such unlikely and wonderful friendships (and now) we need more enthusiasm for Toc H than ever before.**’**



I do worry about the future of Toc H - I so very much wish we had more funds to ensure our future was secure. So many relationships break down; and the world is so full of

people who need understanding, love and compassion. There is a greater need now for the Four Points of the Compass than ever before.

The last few years have seen a truly inspirational new Toc H light, or torch, burning and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations.

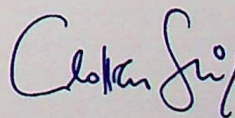
Many people feel that Toc H began to die when Tubby Clayton died and it is true that there are fewer members and fewer branches. But there is a real sense of mission and vision in the Toc H world of today and a great need in society for its sense of purpose and community.

Charities get most of their income from legacies and Toc H's legacy income has fallen over recent years, which is why I am writing to you as someone who has Toc H's interest and its future close at heart.

Legacy giving is not a new or fashionable thing. Tubby Clayton wrote in 1926 - "Give what your inner light dictates and let each one who makes a will see to it that one final gift is thereby made to the work which enshrines the spirit of those who gave all."

If and when the time is right for you, I hope you too will put Toc H in your will so that our light continues to shine for future generations of people who need us. ’

I can only echo what Betty has written and thank you for your continuing support of Toc H.



Geoff Smith
Chief Executive

News in brief

Summer camp appeal

Derby Toc H wants more volunteers to help at its summer camp for disabled children, which has been held since 1924. Members aim to take up to a hundred disadvantaged children, aged between nine and 14, on a two-week break - giving their parents some respite.

Anyone over 18 who feels they might be able to help should ring Iain Henderson on 07930 576982.

Cooking, driving, first aid and helping children have a good holiday are essential requirements.

Busy year

Weymouth Toc H members looked back on a busy year when they held their annual meeting. Activities included knitting blankets for sick children, packing gift boxes with toys, goodies and toiletries for a local Women's Refuge, and visiting sick and elderly people.

Optical aid

Nina Carlisle, an optician who has worked on volunteer missions with Vision Aid Overseas, was guest speaker of Crewkerne branch. Mrs Carlisle has recently been in Ethiopia to train nurses.

Tag rugby

Pupils from Moor Allerton School, South Manchester, took part in a tag rugby tournament organised for independent schools at the Toc H Rugby Club.

Point 3 deadline

'Point 3' Editor is Sue Coffey who can be contacted c/o Toc H Central Services or email info@zymo.co.uk Tel: 01274 841402. Deadline for the next edition: 8 October 2004.

New Members

Betty Jones
Wales

David Jones
Wales

Irene Gilbert
East Midlands

Pamela Warboys
East Midlands

Dorothy Upton
East Midlands

Joseph Greene
East of England

Arts and dance in battle to help kids beat crime

When two groups of people, with a common concern for the health and welfare of young people, got together it proved an explosive mix...

One group was Toc H, who set up a new Talbot Centre in Bradford earlier this year. The other was X-plosion! - a music and dance group which was using the former Methodist Church, now the Park Talbot Centre, as one of its bases.

X-plosion! uses music, dance and the performing arts to encourage drug prevention, crime prevention and a healthy lifestyle. Judy Peltier, one of the founders, says:

"Everything we do with the young people who get involved is done as a team effort. We don't tolerate any swearing or disrespect to others, and we encourage diversity and youth inclusion.

"We are pleased to be working with Toc H to get young people from diverse communities involved. We share Toc H's concerns and hopes for disadvantaged people."

X-plosion! is African-Caribbean led, with an emphasis on street dance, hip-hop, reggae, socca music and African rhythm but includes young people of all backgrounds. More than 100 are involved at Bradford, and Halifax where they have recording studio facilities at the YMCA.

The Bradford Talbot Centre hosts an average attendance of about 40 every Wednesday with ages ranging from three to 25.

The performing arts group shares its fun and laughter with the wider community by getting out and about in the area. Some of the talented youngsters recently took part in a "Breakdance Battle" which saw the Bradford riots of 2001 depicted in street-dance, and

they also staged a spectacular show, "Stylin' It" in the city's Priestley arts centre.

X-plosion! is a very different group from the one which began in the 80s,

when brothers and sisters Judy, Linda, Emile and the late Thomas formed a group which successfully toured all over the country, backing famous names including Edwin Starr. The family band from Manningham was heavily involved in a soul revival and the family talents extended to choreographer Linda working with "Top of the Pops" dance group Zoo.

Offers to tour America were turned down and, eventually X-plosion! evolved into what it is today - a group which has lots of fun while helping many young people turn their back on crime and drugs.



● Our front-page picture shows a member of the Bradford drama group Xplosion! all set for festival fun.

Quarry firms dig in at Lindridge

An overgrown pond at Toc H's Lindridge House, and the surrounding area, is in the process of being transformed into an attractive natural area with access for everyone who visits. The ambitious project, which involves moving hundreds of tons of stone and earth, has been made possible with the help of local quarrying companies, WBB Minerals and E & J W Glendinning and K&K Contractors.

WBB Minerals, which has clay quarrying operations based in and around Kingsteignton and Newton Abbot, was more than happy to help out by supplying a pond expert to help restore the old existing pond along with the equipment to do so.

Tony Green, Restoration Manager for WBB Minerals, says: "Assisting a local community project, especially one as valuable as Lindridge House, is something we are keen to get involved with especially as this type of project is on a smaller scale to what we normally carry out as part of our own quarrying and restoration processes.

"It is particularly rewarding to actually be involved in the restoration and reconstruction of the old pond and to see the direct



Men at work - Toc H's Mike Rowlands (right) with WBB Restoration Manager Tony Green and (in the digger) contractor Kevin Young.

benefit this restoration will have on the visitors who use Lindridge."

E & J W Glendinning, a local quarrying company, have agreed to supply materials for the project. The company, based in Ashburton, is supplying the stone for the footpaths and for the pond drainage.

Kevin Foley, Sales and Business Development Manager, says: "When we heard of the opportunity to help out with this project, we did not hesitate to get involved as it is

such a good cause which directly benefits local people as well as helping to bring visitors to this area. We wish Toc H the best of luck with their restoration project."

Lindridge House was acquired by Toc H in 1985 and in 1989 teams of volunteers spent a year clearing up the badly overgrown pond. Keeping the pond tidy has been difficult as the area can be very boggy.

But now work has started on ambitious plans, which include a pull-in parking bay for mini-buses and a level path that meanders down the steep bank to the pond.

Mike Rowlands, Centre Manager at Toc H Lindridge, says: "It has been a wish for some years to renovate the pond and create an area where wildlife will flourish. Without the help of WBB, Glendinning and K & K Contractors the best we could hope for was to try to maintain the pond. Soon we will have an outstanding space which all guests will have access to. I am extremely pleased and know all our visitors will be for many years to come."



Part of the beautiful, lush surroundings of Lindridge House.

Toc H helping to build futures

Ways to embed the concepts of citizenship and caring into a new college's curriculum were discussed at a meeting in Bradford, as the potential benefits of Toc H's sponsorship of Bradford City Academy have begun to emerge.

Education experts and representatives of the architects' firm who are designing the building met as part of an ongoing agenda of developing the vision to provide a vibrant college with the values of citizenship at its heart.

Toc H Chief Executive Geoff Smith emphasised the importance of the adoption of the principles of the Toc H Four Points of the Compass into the academy ethos.

Plans for the academy emerged two years ago when Education Bradford, the private company which runs the district's schools, began working with the Department for Education and Skills to attract the help of Toc H to transform Bradford Cathedral Community College into a new

Points of Compass role in academy ethos

and innovative city academy which would ensure the willing participation and involvement of students and the wider community.

Geoff Smith said at the time: "We are keen to promote Toc H values of caring and community building. We are absolutely delighted that we can help the children and the community of the current school who all deserve the best and most caring education possible."

The meeting - part of a timetable of discussions to secure a centre of citizenship excellence - explored ways in which Education Bradford's expertise can be harnessed in developing that specialism of citizenship. Subsequent meetings will hear from people with specific

expertise and backgrounds to lead discussions on developing an enhanced approach to citizenship and community within areas including enterprise, and the management and development of sports facilities with a wider community involvement.

Essential links with business and with the local community were discussed, as were ways of ensuring students' involvement and "ownership" of the enterprises with which they would be involved - an intention, Geoff Smith observed, being to create a whole generation of enterprising citizens.

He told the meeting of how the expertise of Toc H's volunteering programmes could be used to the benefit of the college venture.

Thanks to the readers

For several years, the charity ADA Reading Services for the Blind has been helping upwards of 30 blind members of Toc H to get all the Point 3 news by reading it onto audio tapes.

Unfortunately, because of ill health and an increasing lack of volunteer readers, the service can no longer be provided.



Pupils at Bradford Cathedral Community College which will, helped by Toc H sponsorship, soon be transformed into a new City College with the values of citizenship at its heart.

Stop press!

Since Geoff Smith's message was written for Page 9, another significant legacy has been received